

24 Elm Grove

Hall Hill

Birkenhead

13.5.78

⁵²
Esteemed friend,

Many times

during the last six months
I have felt a wish to write
to thee; but many occupations,
added to the extreme state
of irritation in my husband's
"internal geni", alias the sto-
mach department, which
made him a real dyspeptic
irritated all thro the winter,
seemed to deprive ^{me} of both
leisure and inclination

for any and everything not
comprised within the limit
of what he does. Judicious
medical advice and change
from cold weather to warmer,
have been blessed to his present
recovery, so far as to warrant
him in starting for London
Yearly Meeting of Friends next
week - and thus we shall
be at hand for some of the
Anniversaries ~~also~~, Peace,
Anti-Slavery, Aborigines, &c.
and Temperance ones also. And
the last named leads directly
to the point of my pen today,
which is to explain that this
letter is meant to bring to
thy notice the visit of some

Of English Friends to the Grand
Lodge Meeting of Good Templars;
I do not believe that thou couldst
be one of the uninterested in
this question, and mightst
very likely find them out
^{without} any introduction - but I have
been asked and can do no less
than comply with the request
to write - and as I don't know
any Friends in Boston well
enough to recognize me by name,
I take the liberty of requesting
thy kind offices on ~~be~~ half
of Jane Westford & Catharine
Empey - Somersetshire Friends,
and Delegates. How I grieve
over this disunion amongst
the G. Templars! both parties

use stiff language (tall talk)
about themselves and their
doings - each seems persuaded
that it only is successful -
each claims for itself a most
exclusive zeal in the cause
of the Negro - and I am not
without hopes that, between
the two, real benefit to the
colored race may arise;
reversing the "old saw" that
"between two stools one comes
to the ground," and exhibiting
to all the world the "modern
instance" that "two are better
than one"! My friends are most
desirous of coming to a full
understanding on this vexed
and intricate question - and
surely there lives not a man
- I don't think it needful to say,
&

th / Eliza Burritt - more capable
than thyself of giving them
the fullest possible insight;
for which I trust that they may
find thee full of health, vigor
and leisure!! The families
of Metford and Clarke are one
in pleasing traditions of their
ancestors (like my own) having
been amongst the earliest to
espouse the cause of freedom
for men of all shades of com-
plexion - nor must I omit
the equally worthy Imperys -
tho I am as yet (until tomorrow)
a stranger to this individual
one - few indeed are the
names within the borders
of our Society in these Islands,
who are not enrolled amongst
the Anti-slaveryites - tho many

of them never were known
across the Atlantic - as for
myself, I grew up with the
idea that it was "grand" to
not allow any one to know
that I was at work for a good
cause - I seemed to him all
"praise of men" - I wanted not
to let "the left hand" know what
"the right" was doing - I longed
to keep in the background, to
be as one of the "hidden stones"
in God's Palace on earth,
and oh, how deeply, how bit-
terly I lament the mistakes I
made in so shrinking from
publicity, hiding my little
"talent" from those who could
have led me into paths of
far larger usefulness thro
many years of my life, so

that in this my old age, or
near approach to it, I should
be found far more fruitful.
But I must be thankful that
I am "Mrs Grace" what I am,
not more of a mere cypher
in the world.

This evening our $\frac{1}{2}$ M. papers
give intelligence of the "sudden"
"decease of Mrs John Bright".
How wide will be the sympathy
felt for him! and how mar-
vellous to think that while I am
noticing the event in these
lines, thou & thy fellow country-
men, thousands of miles off,
are discussing it at your
tea-tables*! This talk of time
reminds me that my bed hour
is come. Our dear Mr. Butters
impaired health is cause of
much regret and anxiety;

* if not earlier

but if she is destined to do the
work, Our Heavenly Father
will spare her and strengthen
her for it, as He did thee for
thy task, so long as He sees it
needful.

Very cordial remembrance
to thy son and self bring
this rambling letter to a
close; its progress has been
frequently interrupted, so that
I almost forget what I most
wanted to say to thee — and
now believe me ever

Thy sincere and
sympathetic friend

Hannah O'Brien

Mr Lloyd Garrison {
Boston